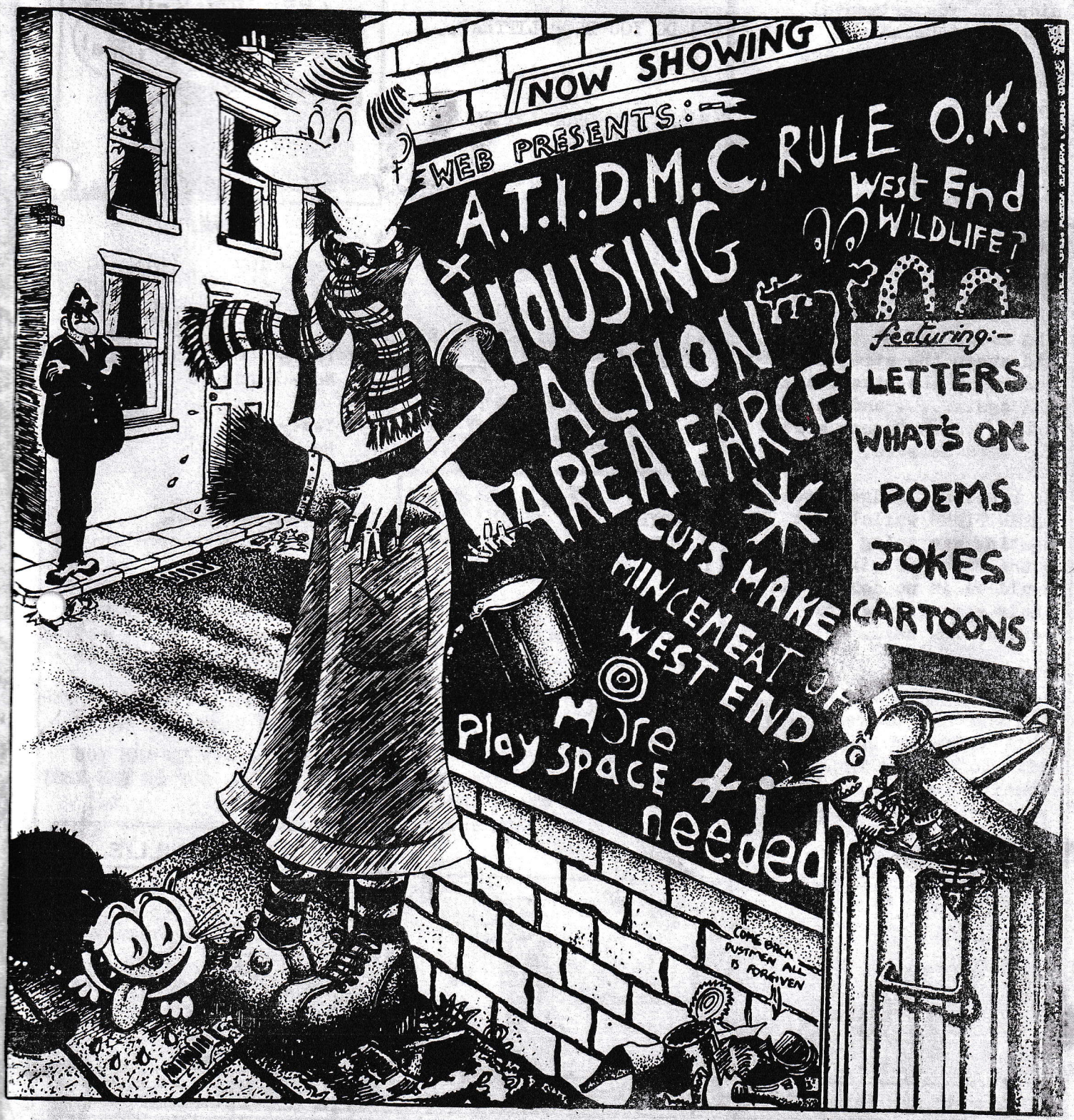
WEB

5p

WEST END BULLETIN - JANUARY. 1977 - NUMBER: 2.



ATIDMC RULE OK?!

Everybody knows that public lavatories only ever get a really good cleaning when the Queen is due to pass by. Well, it now seems as though that regal body - the All Tameside Interdepartmental Management Committee (A.T.I.D.M.C.) have the same magic powers.

This group of Big Knobs were having one of their meetings at 67 Cambridge Street on the 8th Dec.1976 when out of the blue that rare and exotic beast, a Tameside Cleaning Machine proceeded to sweep the street.
And sweep the street..
And sweep the street...
And sweep the street....
And sweep the street again
And again..... and once again .....and once more for Good measure.

He swept Cambridge Street SEVEN TIMES whilst that meeting was going on, just so the Tameside Big Knobs could be in no doubt that their street sweepers were on the ball.

clean-up

WEB was very impressed by this story and would now like to ask the Management Committee to come and have regular meetings (preferably once a day) in the following streets:- Ryecroft St., Oxford St., Kelvin St., Stockport Rd., in fact, in every West End street, because there is a lot of litter about and it could do with being swept up.

RUBBISH QUIZ

Try this short quiz to see how you rate as a non-litter dropper of the year!

Answer all of the questions then check your score to see how much YOU care about the appearance of your West End.

QUESTIONS

(1) ARE YOU HONEST? .....

(2) DO YOU DROP LITTER?.....

(If 'YES' to Q.2):-

(3) DO YOU DROP LITTER BECAUSE :-

a) You Like doing it? ....

b) You are Lazy? .....

c) You don't realise you are doing it ? .....

(4) DO YOU THINK LITTER IS UNSIGHTLY? .....

(5) DID YOU REALISE THAT LITTER COSTS MONEY TO REMOVE? .....

PHIL THE BIN

SCORE

(1) Yes - 100
No - 10

(2) Yes - 100
No - Minus 10

(3) a.-10
b.-100
c.-100

(4) Yes-100
No -10

(5) Yes - 100
No - 10

IF YOU SCORED -

500 - You're welcome in the West End.

400 - or more - You're eith cheating or not taking this Quiz seriously.

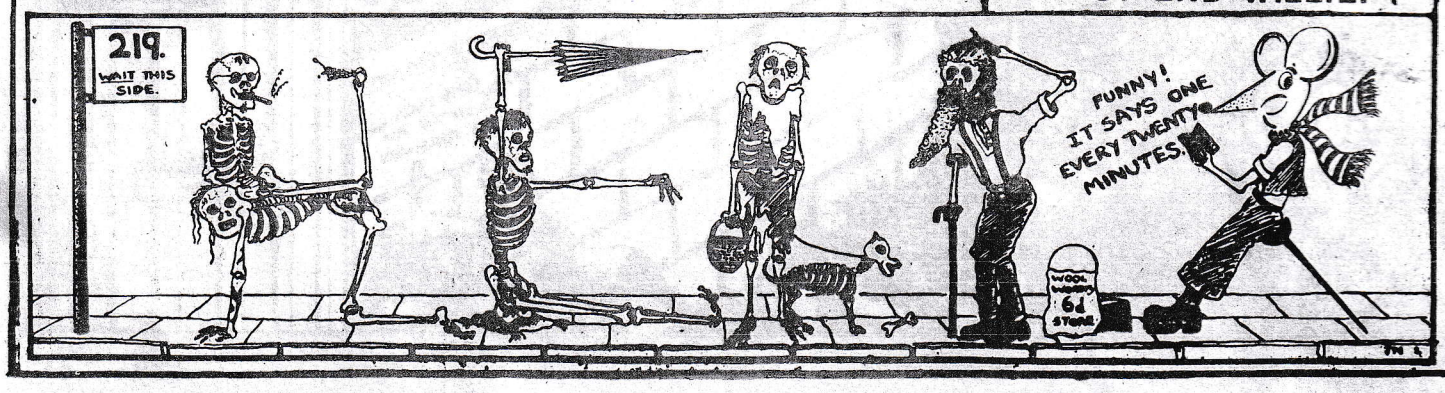
300 - or more - write to WEB YOU NEED SOME HELP!

10 or less - WHEN ARE YOU MOVING OUT OF THE WEST END?

WEST END WILLIE.

WILL EVERYBODY SPEND TIME ENDLESSLY NOISELESSLY DOING IT

PICKING UP LITTER

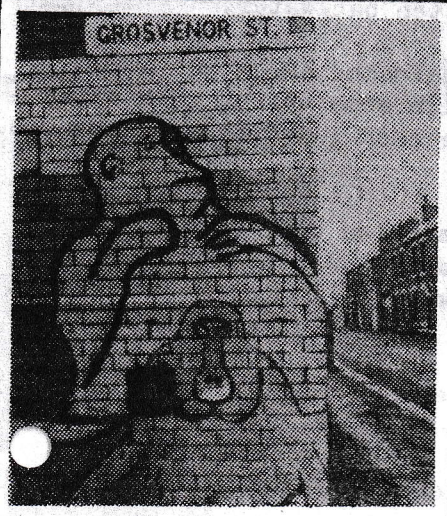


WHO CARES ABOUT KIDS?

Web Investigates Play *fiasco*

TAMESIDE RECREATION DEPT. SEEMS TO BE PLAYING A PETTY POWER GAME WITH ITSELF. WHICH IS FUNNY; EXCEPT THAT IT'S USING CHILDREN AND COMMUNITIES AS PAWNS, WHICH ISN'T SO FUNNY.

The Recreation Dept. has two rival sections - "Research and Development (R.A.D.)" and Operations" (O.P.). R.A.D.'s job is to start new projects and it's boss is Mr. Jackson "Ideas man" who "sticks out like a sore thumb in Recreation". O.P.'s job is to run existing projects



St. Peters.

and its boss is Mr. Macbirnie, a more conservative gent. R.A.D. and O.P. never hit it off. Which makes life difficult for Mr. Neighbour the boss over both.

Now, Mr. Jackson (RAD) decides that Recreation should branch out into playschemes. Mr.Macbirnie isn't keen. Mr. Jackson says that the money will come from Job Creation and not Tameside. Neighbour says "O.K." but Mr.Macbirnie is still not keen.

Playschemes mean kids, and kids are more troublesome than cemetaries. But the plans go ahead. Jackson employs Mr. Rennie to run Playschemes. Nine are set up all over Tameside: kids and parents are involved and workers employed. The Empire of Mr.Jackson and Mr. Rennie grows quickly; perhaps too quickly. Mr. Macbirnie grows less and less keen. Then the bubble bursts.

Collapse

Complaints about the operation of the schemes trickle in. Some workers aren't trained properly, some buildings aren't suitable, workers aren't getting proper back-up from Rennie. At St. Peters in the West End workers and parents are fed up. There's no heating, so what will they do when winter comes? Rennie tells them to "Make the kids run around" and when the scheme collapses says the workers he appointed were "unsuitable" and that, in any case, he never puts his best workers into places like the West End.

Now Macbirnie's hand is strengthened by the complaints and so....THE PLOT THICKENS.

November 22nd, 1976 the Playschemes are transferred from Jackson to Macbirnie. WHY? Mr. Macbirnie says because the schemes were now "operational". Fine. But if they were operational why did Macbirnie shut them all down two weeks later? Were Playschemes transferred to Mr.Macbirnie because Mr. Jackson didn't want them closed down?

And would it be true to say that Mr. Macburnie had always wanted them shut down?

WHY were they closed? Macbirnie says because all the buildings were "unsuitable" (but some are still being used for boys clubs and mothers and tots) and the workers weren't working (yet they worked all Xmas without pay or prospects). He implies there was mismanagement by R.A.D. At St.Peter's the situation was chaotic.

But who was supposed to be in charge of the men from R.A.D?

And if the schemes were so unsuitable "Why", as Job Creation asked, "did the Recreation Dept. set them up in the first place?" Were they always unsuitable or did they just suddenly become unsuitable?

Scapegoat

Mr. Rennie seems to have things to answer for, and seems to be in big trouble. But, he can't be made the scapegoat for all the mess at Recreation. He wasn't running Recreation. But then in December it wasn't very clear who was running Recreation. "Recreation policy seemed to change once a day, and sometimes twice a day."
(N.W.P.), which got Job Creation worried about their money. After investigating they said "We would never have expected a local authority to run a scheme in such a way". They saw a "War of attrition" going on inside Recreation, which explains, but doesn't excuse, the confusion. But who was the war between and who won?

CAST IN ORDER

Fairy Godmother ----
1st Widow ----

2nd Widow ----
Count Recount----

Dept.of the Environment

SCENE :

The curtain opens on a scene of tightly packed red brick houses, litter strewn pavements, parked cars and children merrily skipping between the articulated lorries which thunder their way along the narrow streets to local factories.
Suddenly, dusty and bedraggled, after many years sleep, the Tameside Fairy Godmother bursts upon this long forgotten backwater.

Fairy Godmother. "Your houses are to be transformed and given a 30 year life! 75% grants will be given, more in some cases, with extra help for old age pensioners. You will have such luxuries as bathrooms, inside toilets, even central heating! "

No doubt you've all heard a lot of similar stories over Christmas but, believe me, when we in the Ryecroft area heard this nine months ago we cheered in our seats. Unfortunately, unlike most pantomime stories, our Fairy Godmother seemed to get frostbite as the winter drew on.

The traditional ugly sisters in the plot are the widow Tameside Area Improvement Group and the Widow Housing Association. These two jokers have been hit with so many custard pies and washed and rewashed so much red tape that the rest of the cast and audience could only gasp with amazement.

Since the curtain went up nine months ago we have waited patiently as the scenery was wheeled slowly into place. Then suddenly, in November, Count Recount, policy maker up at the Castle burst into the plot.

Count Recount and henchmen: "We can't even afford the Fairy Godmother's committment on our own properties, therefore only partial improvement can be undertaken. We decree that the classification minimum 30 years life be reduced to minimum 15 years life in order to reduce the content of work required to be carried out on the properties."

Recount couldn't see further than his pocket money, but the residents quickly realised the damage this could do to the area and backed by the Area Improvement Group and the Housing Association caused Recount to Dismount.

Count Recount: "Its all a popular local press plot stirred up by over-sensitive residents."

OF APPEARANCE

Tameside Council
Tameside Area Improvement Group
Housing Association
Chairman, Housing Services Committee
Playing itself

RYECROFT.

Meanwhile, the Department of the Environment has Widow Housing Association tied up in red tape, helplessly waiting for her money. Someday soon she will be given the money she needs to carry out her plans.

Widow Area Improvement Group is also up to her elbows in the scum of finance, but has recently been helped by a twinkle of magic detergent in the form of money to solve her staffing problems, hopefully this will all help to speed things up!

Unfortunately, this means that we don't have a transformation scene for you. The story so far brings us roughly up to date and for one reason or another not one house has yet been improved.

In the cold light of Ryecroft, away from the indulgencies of any scriptwriter, the real problems of real people in houses which badly need basic repairs, not to mention the promised improvements continue: The tenants who suffer because landlords are not willing to repair property which they may soon want to sell to the Housing Association; The owner occupiers who feel that they are being asked for too much when they have to meet the rigid demands of the improvement schemes; The difficulties of owner occupiers who are trying to sell property, and those who want to move in, and cannot get mortgages until the area has a definite 30 year life.

There is no doubt that the residents are behind any plan which attempts to improve living conditions within the area. After dangling the carrot in front of their noses the Council cannot wonder why people are desperate to see things moving. The only thing that they can see moving at speed in this area is the wave of demolition sweeping from south of Stockport Road, and that is one thing that the residents of this area are not willing to accept at any price.

RYECROFT RESIDENTS GROUP MEETS ON MONDAY EVENINGS 7.30pm AT 67 CAMBRIDGE STREET. THEY NEED MORE REPRESENTATIVES WHO ARE INTERESTED IN THE FUTURE OF THEIR AREA.

ANY ENQUIRIES REGARDING IMPROVEMENTS, GRANTS, ETC. TO 67 CAMBRIDGE STREET.

Health Risk

YOUR HOUSES ARE A HEALTH RISK admitted Mr.Bottomley a Tameside Environmental Health Officer, at a meeting held recently in the Community Centre.

He was replying to questions put to him by the residents of the clearance area who were trying to find out when they will be rehoused.

The public meeting, which had been called by WECRA started off by showing a 30 minute film of the bad conditions that the residents are having to live in. After the film, questions were put to a number of councillors and officers from Tameside and it was heard that nobody can say for sure when people will be rehoused, but the most likely date was between a year and two years.

No Repairs

It was stated that, altho' the houses were a health risk the residents could not expect any repairs to be done - only those which kept the houses 'wind and weatherproof'.

Legal Advice

We understand from WECRA that they are seeking legal advice on the definition of 'wind and weatherproof" as they are keen to find out what their rights are about repairs. While WECRA understand that financially it is not worth doing improvements to the houses, they feel very strongly that if they are expected to continue living in these houses then Tameside should ensure that basic repairs are done.

DID YOU KNOW?

One copy of WEB's last issue reached France - *Really!!* We only set out to reach you. Why don't you come and help produce your paper - we meet Weds. at 8 pm at the John Street Community Centre A.U.L

WEB POEM

Who's to Blame

Some folk say "West End is neglected,
That Tameside's not doin' it's stuff;
But it's up to us folks that live 'ere-abouts,
'Cos we folk are right gradely enough.

It's time we all started shapin'
And showed them a good thing or two,
By gettin' together and sortin' things out,
So come on folks, it's now up to you.

If we do our bit, and keep place straight,
We haven't got nout to lose,
Then Tameside won't have a leg stand on
And won't dare say 'Boo to a goose'.

Then me'be they'll give us new pavements,
'Cos ours look like patch work bed-spreads,
And maybe they'll level some of our streets,
Before all of us fall on our 'yeds.

So US AND THEM, together must get,
Our ways we now have to mend.
Let's make it a place fit for heroes,
And proud to live in't West End.

ANON.

Wild West (end!)

The more decay there is in the West End, the more nature there is. As the Peop move out, plants, birds an animals move in. Take a look at the sight of a demolished terrace a few months later and it will b covered with weeds. But ar they just weeds? Look again. I counted umpteen varieties of plants includ ing such types as Hymalaya Balsam, Woody Nightshade, Japanese Polyginum, spear thistle, water plantain an Hogweed.

I was once asked "Are ther any eagles in the West End I said"No, well - apart fr the ones flying next to pi elephants spotted by Tetly Bitter-men at closing time But there are Kestrels to seen.

Ducks

Imagine this: A beautiful day, the smell of wild flo ers and all is quiet, excep for the chatter of birds and - what? - the sight of a Mallard Duck and her chic walking down Ryecroft Stree

In a period of two days I saw more than thirty differ ent species of animals and plants as well as owls, blac birds, song thrushes and the usual crowds of pigeons and starlings.

Then there are the trees: El der, Hawthorn and two kir of willow and also the insec tortoise shell and cabbage white butterflies, yellow moths, soldier beetles, oran mites and lacewings.

SEE HOW MANY DIFFERENT ANIMALS, BIRDS AND PLANTS YOU CAN SPOT. THEN LET US KNOW AT W.E.B.

Playschemes Cont. From P.3

Now thats difficult to say, because at the time of writing Mr. Jackson is "Ill and on holiday" and Mr. Rennie is "suspended pending investigation of administrative and financial irregularities". So that apart from Mr. Neighbour, only Mr. Macbirnie is able to speak to the press, and he is saying nowt.

Who lost then? Thats easy. The kids lost, and parents like Pat, Judy, Margaret and Brenda at St. Peter's who put in a lot of work that got destroyed by the hamfisted incompetence of Recreation.

The people at the bottom lost, as usual.
And the workers? They've got a new fairy godmother, called the North West Play Association (N.W.P.) which has taken over the job creation money and is going to re-employ everyone and send them back into communities again.

So, once more, local groups can expect to be offered 'help'. Take WEB's advice: Be careful. If only because the Chairman Designate of N.W.P. is that same Mr. Rennie who tried to make such a success of Recreation's Playschemes.

CUTS bite in West End

Mr. Healy has just announced the latest public spending cuts. These are just a small part of the massive cutbacks being made well into the 1980's. All this is happening while prices are rising every day and your wage doesn't go anywhere.
But what does this really mean to us in the West End? Well, here's what will go up:
Bus fares
School meals
prescriptions
the price of glasses, hearing aids, dental treatment.

Poor Services

There will be fewer jobs (Unemployment in one part of the West End is three times the national average).

Fewer nursery places
Fewer council houses
Fewer council house repairs

On top of all this the subsidy cuts put up the price of milk, bread, eggs, cheese, two weeks ago.

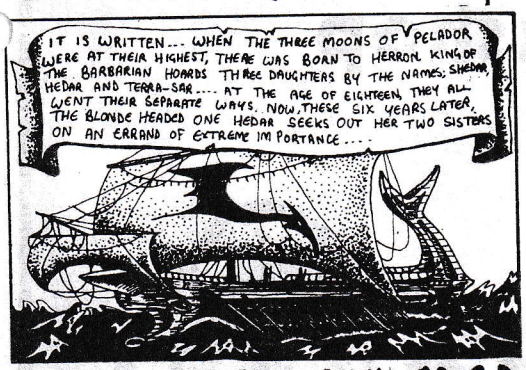
Quiet, you 35 at the back!

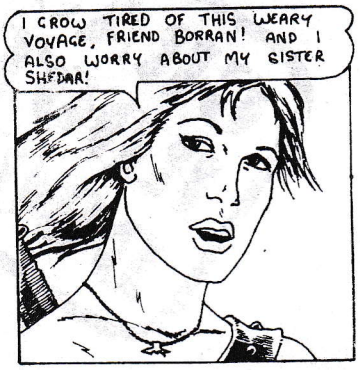
Who suffers from inflation- US.
Who suffers from the remedies for inflation - US.
Maybe its not us thats sick,
Maybe its the doctor.

If you agree with us that the cuts must be stopped and if the cuts have already affected your life in any way write and tell us.

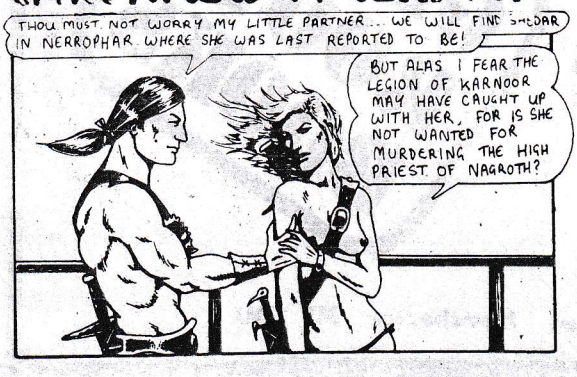
STOP THE CUTS

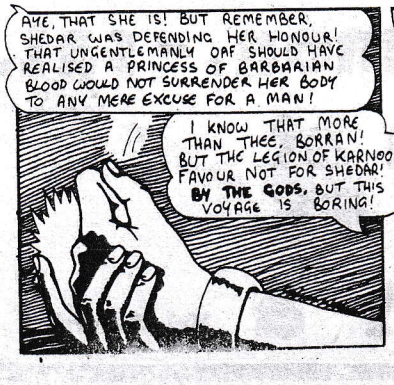
with W.E.B.





CHRONICLES of PELADOR





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BIG BANG

YOUR MEMORIES

(1917 TNT Blow-up)

1. Clog

60 years ago my Grandad was only 6, but he remembers one day vividly.

He was sitting in a shop doorway eating liquorice allsorts, when suddenly, there was an ear-shattering bang and off shot his left clog (he must have been sitting with his legs crossed). The clog flew through the air and landed somewhere in the middle of the road.

When he got home, his mother boxed his ears for losing his clog. He would not have minded, but his mother couldn't afford another pair until he was 12!

Joanne Dalton and
Margaret Bullock, Worsley.

2. All night digging

I was 15 years of age and was working at the old Tudor Mill, Portland St. I remember a big bang, which threw me onto my back, then all the windows of the Mill blew in. Luckily I was not injured at all, so I went outside, proceeding down Victoria Street. Wounded people were screaming and rushing in all directions. Before reaching William Street I passed many dead, lots of them school children. They had pieces of window blinds, from shop windows and houses, placed over their faces, so someone had been here before me.

I made my way down to the T.N.T. Works, and there I stayed digging and shoveling till 2 a.m. the following morning. When I got home my Mother was frantic thinking I was one of the killed. Then I had to start again as our back windows were blown in and none of the doors would close from the tremours received.

RYECROFTER.

Please send us your West End memories: we will print them, and more of Ryecrofter's memories next issue.

Stop the Rot ! IN

BEECH GROVE AND HAWTHORN GROVE

We collectively pay £2000 (plus) rates and have nothing to show for it. The council grassed over the spare ground in 1974 and since then the roads have got worse and worse. TIR lorries now see a short cut from heavy traffic on M/cr Road or use it as a parking lot while they use the phone box. They then get stuck in the mud and have the cheek to ask us to help them out of it.

Frequently the Hawthorn Gr. entrance is flooded right across thus causing damp to appear in the end houses.

The council say they've never had any complaints from us. Well Mrs.Winterbottom has regular correspondence with Mr. Sheldon.

The Thompsons, Johnstones & Edwards regularly attend the councillors' surgeries. Mr. Spears and I have contacted the Highways Dept. We want the rot to stop now. We want the wrong put right, and are organising ourselves and are contemplating a rates strike to show we care and want something done.

THIS IS YOUR RIGHT:

Rates rebates: a lot of people can claim back some of the fortune they dish out to the Council in rates every year - maybe only a little, but it mounts up over the months. For example, a single person earning £24 a week and paying £1 a week in rates qualifies for a rebate of 32 p. per week. Which is nearly £17 per year.

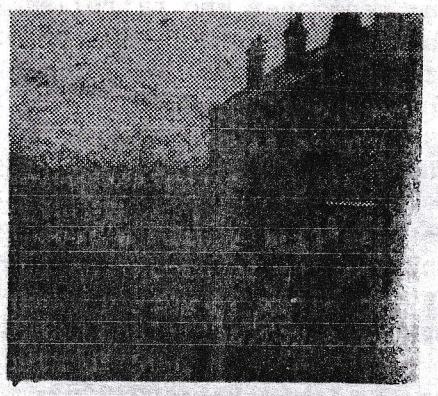
A couple with 2 children and an income of £45 per week, paying £2 rates per week, qualifies for a rebate of 59p.

A rates rebate is a form of tax relief, not a handout - so if you qualify for it, IT IS YOUR RIGHT.

You can claim a rebate if you own your house, or if you are a tenant. If your rates are included in your rent, ask your landlord how much the rates are, then apply.

If you are not sure if you qualify for a rates rebate, or need help in applying, ask at the

HOUSING AID CENTRE
154 Stamford St. A.U.L.
Tel.330-8355 Ext. 242
Open Mon-Fri 10.45 - 4pm.
Late night Thurs - 7 pm.



LETTERS to

W.E.B. 1 Hawthorn Grove
Ashton Under Lyne 330 5664

Dear WEB,

Last summer the patrons of West End Park, in common with others in the area, lost their evening park keeper.

This caused considerable difficulties when trying to hire bowls and tennis courts. The games hut was often locked and during the spasmodic opening times mats, bowls, the honesty box and other equipment mysteriously disappeared.

It must have been the exitement of carrying out this policy of goodwill and extravagance that has made the Recreation Dept. move towards stage two of the W.E. Park Scheme:- A Childrens play area without equipment.

The swings were taken away months ago and have not been replaced. A gang of men assisted by acetylene cutting tool removed the roundabout which also has not returned. There are still two or three things left, but we can only assume that they are saving them to pick off one by one during periods of extreme boredom.

Play space is a rare commodity in this area and it is ridiculous not to fully utilise this park.

Saving money is one thing but the measures which have been taken here are a false economy. The cost of the equipment stolen must be more than the wage paid to the pensioner who patrolled the park. Children who can't play on equipment will probably do more damage to the rest of the park just out of sheer frustration.

When the park falls into total disrepair because of this penny-pinching attitude perhaps the council will have got what they want - a park with no people, no facilities, no flowers and the ultimate money-saver, a large padlock on the gates.

A W.E.Resident.

Whats On

AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

WHIST DRIVE: Thurs 7.30pm
MUMS & TOTS: Weds 9.30 am
(Any unwanted toys greatly appreciated).
ARTS & CRAFTS: Tues 7.30pm
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY:
Every 3rd Thurs 7.30pm
DISCO: Friday 7.30 pm
JUNIOR DISCO: Sat 2.pm

ALL VERY WELCOME

WEST END SCHOOL Present
'EXTRAVAGANZA'
at Tameside Theatre 7.15
on March 3rd.
Tickets £1, 75p, 50p.
from the school.

FEB 5th. Mayor opens new £20,000 extension at Guide Bridge Theatre. Productions open early March with - 'Things aint what they used to be '
Enquiries: 330-1160

IF YOU NEED A STENCIL CUT - GET IT DONE AT CLYDE HOUSE

VALENTINE DANCE & BUFFET.
- A YOUTH EVENING -
16th February
at THE COMMUNITY CENTRE
Tickets from the Centre
-8.00p.m.-

WELFARE RIGHTS COURSE
at HOUSING AID CENTRE,
154,Stamford Street,A-u-L
Every Thursday 7.30 p.m.

WANTED - GUITAR LESSONS for 7 yr. old. Contact Arlene, 1, Hawthorn Grove, A-u-L.

acknowledgements

We wish to thank the people who donated to make this paper financially possible.
Oxford Mills Social Club.
Royal Order Association Buffaloes.
Community Relations Council.
Tameside Trades Council.

Our thanks to VESTA for the show they arranged for our benefit.

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